

Metropolitan Bridge Unit Quarterly Membership Meeting, 10/24/2023

Marcia Demos called the meeting to order at 10:40 AM.

Invocation – Marcia Demos

Roll Call – Present: Marica Demos, Janice McBean, Sharon Fox, Lois Wright, John Demos, and representatives from the following clubs: Bayview, Brooklynites, Cosmo, Jet Setter, Leisure, Springfield, Triangle, Twilight, and Westbury.

Good and Welfare – *MBU Good and Welfare May 2023 - September 2023 Report* Prepared by: *Lois M. Wright*
Email address: Loismwright563@gmail.com

<u>NAME</u>	<u>CLUB</u>	<u>REASON</u>
<u>May 2023</u>		
Dianne Edgerton-Norman	Cosmopolitan	Get Well Card
Phillip Gerdes	Cosmopolitan	Get Well Card
Minnie Hagan	Jetsetter	Get Well Card
Barbara Wingate	Westbury	Get Well Card
Parvez Mehta	Mount Vernon	Get Well Card
Betty Sherrill	Twilight	Get Well Card
<u>May & June 2023 (Members & Former Members) with Long Term Illnesses</u>		
Rudolph Cummings	Bayview	Get Well Card
Theodore Conliffe	Westbury	Get Well Card
Mercedes Mann	Twilight	Get Well Card
Julius Fields	Triangle	Get Well Card
Lorelei Blackman	Mount Vernon	Get Well Card
Julia Rhinehardt	Springfield	Get Well Card
Delores Brooks	Bayview	Get Well Card
<u>June & July 2023</u>		
Minnie Hagan	Jetsetter	Get Well Card

Marcia Demos	Springfield	Get Well Card
Barbara Wingate	Westbury	Sympathy Card-Passing of Member
Sylvia Elizabeth Taylor-Thomas	Jetsetter	Sympathy Card-Passing of Former Member
Ed White	Mount Vernon	Sympathy Card-Passing of Former Member
Kathleen Marshall	Brooklynite	Sympathy Card-Passing of Her Brother

July & August 2023 (Members & Former Members) W/Long Term Illnesses

Rudolph Cummings	Bayview	Get Well Card
Lorelei Blackman	Mount Vernon	Get Well Card
Julius Fields	Triangle	Get Well Card

July, August & September 2023 Members at Home

Delores Brooks	Bayview	Thinking of You Card
Julia Rhinehardt	Springfield	Thinking of You Card
Willie Fuchs	Bayview	Thinking of You Card
Therese Hamilton	Cosmopolitan	Thinking of You Card
Louise Wilson	Bayview	Thinking of You Card
Doris White	Cosmopolitan	Thinking of You Card
James McKeown	Springfield	Thinking of You Card

August & September 2023

John Demos	Cosmopolitan	Get Well Card
Marilyn Legall	Bayview	Get Well Card
Yvonne Ebea	Jetsetter	Get Well Card
Theodore Conliffe	Westbury	Sympathy Card-Passing of Member
Mercedes Mann	Twilight	Sympathy Card-Passing of Former Member
Jean DeVeaux	Mount Vernon	Sympathy Card-Passing of Member

Thank You Cards & Letters to: Metropolitan Bridge Unit (MBU) Members

“She was a Faithful Member of the Presbyterian Church of St. Albans; and an Active Member of The American Bridge Association (ABA).”

*In lieu of Flowers, the Family Request Donations be sent to: CCNS Alzheimer’s Social Adult Day Program
190-04 119th Avenue, St. Albans, NY 11412*

“This Program was truly a Blessing for my Mom when she was still residing in New York”

God Bless You... Kevin Taylor & Family

Thank You Cards & Letters (continued)

To: Metropolitan Bridge Unit (MBU) Members

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Thank You!

To The MBU President and Members

The Twilight Bridge Club

“Thank You for the Love and Support that has been extended to our Family at this time of grief.”

From: Jeanette Mann-George, Rhonda Mann-Philbert and Paula Mann-Agnew

There are not enough words to fully express our heartfelt gratitude for the sympathy, love and support you have extended to our Family during this time of loss. Again, Thank You.

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A Special Thank You

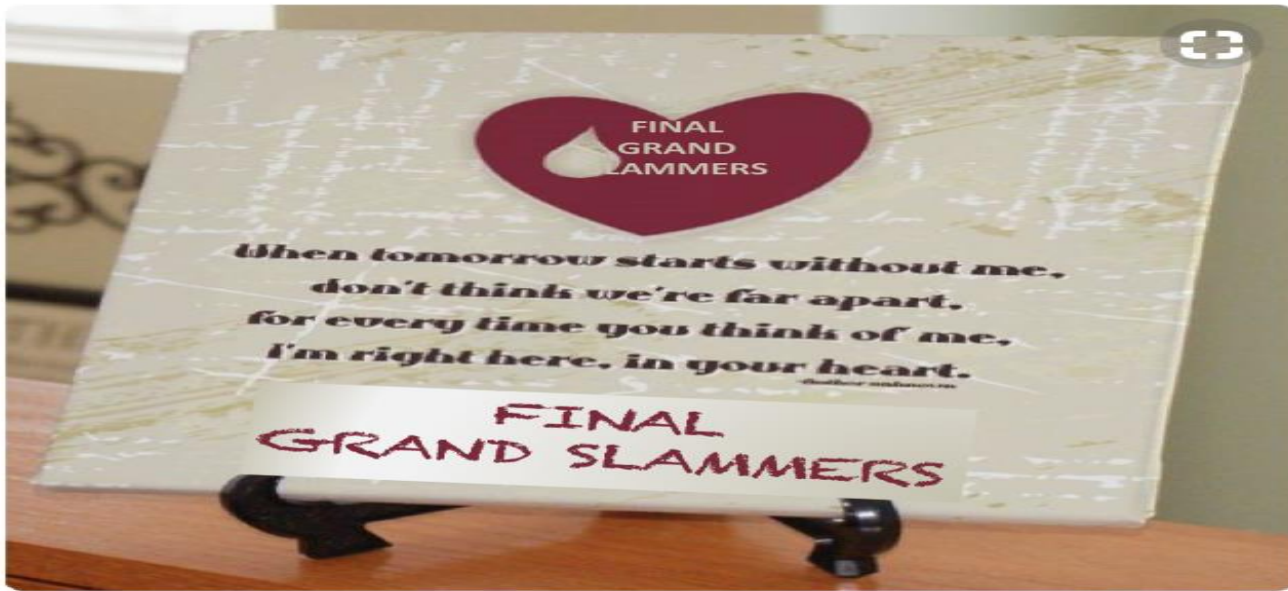
With Appreciation For Your Expressions Of Sympathy.

Thank You so much for your Beautiful Card and for your Words Of Support and Sympathy.

From: The Family of Ted Conliffe

Metropolitan Bridge Unit (MBU) 2023

Final Grand Slammers: January thru September



Members

Ermile Stewart (March)	Triangle Bridge Club
Evelyn Smallwood (March)	Springfield Bridge Club
Tracie Stukes (April)	Jet Setter Bridge Club
Barbara Wingate (June)	Westbury Bridge Club
Theodore Conliffe (August)	Westbury Bridge Club
Jean DeVeaux (September)	Mount Vernon Bridge Club

Former Members:

Genesis Washington (January)	Co-op City Bridge Club
Barbara Anderson (March)	Co-op City Bridge Club
Sylvia Elizabeth Taylor-Thomas (June)	Jetsetter Bridge Club
Ed White (July)	Mount Vernon Bridge Club
Mercedes Mann (August)	Twilight Bridge Club

A Special Message From The Metropolitan Bridge Unit (MBU)

"To God Be The Glory"

And Remember; His Grace Is Sufficient For All Our Needs.



"Be Blessed and Stay Safe."

Lois Wright informed the membership: “Thank You” cards received from the Conyers, Mann Wingate, and Thomas families, Theresa Hamilton, Pat Jackson and Minnie Hagans sent a thank you for your concern letter.

Please let Lois Wright know of members that are not well or in need of a “Thanking of You” card.

Minutes – Presented by Janice McBean. Minutes of the July 21, 2023 quarterly membership meeting were reviewed by the membership. MOTION: Accept minutes as presented. MOTION CARRIED.

Correspondence – The MBU responded to the 10/19/23 letter from Niamo Nancy Muid referring her to the Community Bridge Home for bond status.

President’s Report – Presented by Marcia Demos.

This bridge year has gone by so quickly for me, and I have had to look at bridge differently. I can no longer just breeze in, play for a few hours, have a few laughs, and then breeze back out the door. Since becoming your president, I can no longer consider myself a retired person.

I have had to question just how the MBU works and to actually pay attention to just what was happening around me. Bridge here does not just happen, it takes planning, work, and enthusiasm. In 1932 the ABA was organized because Black bridge players were excluded from most bridge events. I can only imagine how much work went into starting and growing an organization from the very beginning.

We are fortunate today that the ABA still exists in a world where there is so much competition for our time and attention. We are also fortunate that our bridge association is different from any other.

We are a nonprofit organization and our focus is on the “social experience” not on dollars and cents. We can afford to take the time to truly nurture our new players, to take the time to celebrate birthdays and club anniversaries, and to reach out to our missing members that seemed to fall out of touch.

Last week I went to the graduation of one of Annetta Wallace’s New {layers’ class. There was much pomp and circumstance. The Bridge Home President, the Eastern Section Vice President and I spoke of how great it was to see such an interest in bridge and all it has to offer. I presented the graduates with beautiful certificates, acknowledged all new players in the room, and preserved the moment with a gallery of pictures. At this same celebration, the Cosmopolitan Duplicate Bridge Club marked their 63rd anniversary and served a lunch fit for a King, cake and all. We may be nonprofit, but we can afford to be family to our members.

As the MBU prepares for our only tournament of the year in December, I have become aware of all that goes into making a major event happen. The planning for the tournament begins a year in advance. Contracts to be negotiated and signed, the AAA committee is formed to work out the details, and fundraising events are planned to make sure that we will be able to pay for all the amenities and expenses that we are responsible for, such as staff housing and salaries, the yearly brunch with entertainment, hospitality and decoration expenses that make the AAA tournament so special. The MBU’s AAA is the best Unit tournament in the country and it is a game that rivals all other games in the ABA.

Remember, the MBU is a voluntary organization. The different flyers that announce a game at many venues, are done without pay (thanks to Rita). Many expenses are donated, and your elected officers that put in their time and energy to make Bridge “happen”, all work without pay. From the person that keeps track of your money to the one that keeps track of your points, to the ones that order the supplies for the games you play, all

work for free and are underappreciated. Would you believe that we cannot even get new people to work on The Consumer, that we all say we want.

When I became your President, I promised two things. One, there would be transparency, and two, I would do the best I could. So far I have kept my two promises. I won't duck hard decisions, and I will take responsibility for what I say.

Now, having said all of that, my job right now is to try to get more members, and to get our present members more involved. Your elected officers are some of the hardest and most dedicated people I have ever met. They have been patient with me and kept me from making too many mistakes as I learn to do the job you entrusted to me. All I ask of you, is if you have a problem with something that is being done, let us know, and be a person right in the middle of getting the problem fixed.

The MBU has had problems that originated with the pandemic, and some of those problems have continued until today. We need to be on firm financial footing as we go forward so that the bridge game we know and love will continue.

Hospitality Report – Presented by Doreen Christmas

Cosmo/Westbury – April 2023

Brooklynites/Jet Setter - July 2023

Bayview/Triangle – October 2023

Please sign up for 2024

Leisure/Triangle – January 2024

In 2024 MBU collation stipend raised to \$65 in 2024 per membership meeting

Tournament Report – Presented by John Demos

All clubs should be reporting to John Demos and scheduling their 2024 sanctioned games. Gwen Leverette stated Triangle DBC is requesting a set of Bridgemates. It was pointed out that directors, not clubs, are assigned Bridgemates. John Demos will look into this matter.

Financial Secretary's Report – completed by Sharon Fox .

**Quarterly Financial Secretary's Report
July 1, 2023 through September 30, 2023**

Income	
2023 AAA Fundraiser	\$3,505.00
2023 AAA Fundraiser (Auction)	\$170.00
2023 MBU Entertainment Tax from clubs	\$875.00
2023 Club Herman Huff donations to MBU	\$535.00
7/21/23 MBU meeting/game proceeds	\$220.00
6/21/23 Anonymous Longest Day Donation	\$25.00

Total Funds Received	\$5,330.00
Expenses	
6/21/2023 Longest Day ABA Processing fee	\$14.00
John Demos Longest Day Donation sent to ABA	\$50.00
Pat Binyard Longest Day Donation sent to ABA	\$40.00
Longest Day Collation	\$96.00
web fees	\$30.00
7/21/23 MBU Meeting/Game collation	\$128.13
7/21/23 MBU Meeting/Game sanction to ABA	\$11.00
12/9/22 Nationwide Sanction to ABA	\$96.00
2023 Summer National Raffle	\$50.00
2023 Herman Huff Award to Brianna Thompson	\$500.00
Bank fee for stop payment	\$4.00
7/21/23 anonymous Longest Day donation to ABA	\$25.00
Outstanding check Sylvia Butler memorium	\$50.00
One night tournament MBU Section Representative	\$120.05
Total Expenses	<u>\$1,014.18</u>
Net Income/Loss	<u>\$4,315.82</u>

Respectfully Submitted by Sharon Fox

Entertainment Tax Report – completed by Sharon Fox

	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June
Club Name						

Bayview	\$0.00	\$33.00	\$43.00	\$22.00	\$24.00	\$33.00
Brooklynites	\$50.00	\$64.00	\$46.00	\$26.00	\$26.00	\$26.00
Cosmo	\$30.00	\$55.00	\$55.00	\$25.00	\$13.00	\$19.00
Mt Vernon	\$61.00	\$47.00	\$50.00	\$79.00	\$33.00	\$27.00
Jet Setters	\$0.00	\$18.00	\$22.00	\$34.00	\$34.00	\$36.00
Leisure**	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Springfield	\$24.00	\$28.00	\$48.00	\$24.00	\$26.00	\$44.00
Triangle	\$12.00	\$22.00	\$32.00	\$40.00	\$42.00	\$36.00
Twilight***	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$39.00	\$39.00	\$39.00
Westbury	\$50.00	\$36.00	\$56.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total by Month	\$227.00	\$303.00	\$352.00	\$289.00	\$213.00	\$227.00
***RESUMED GAMES 4/2023/NO JULY GAMES						
**NO TAX NEEDED						

July	August	Sept	Oct	2022 Total by Club	2023 Total by Club	2023 Good and Welfare	2023 Herman Huff
\$20.00	\$22.00	\$42.00	\$34.00	\$248.00	\$273.00	\$40.00	\$100.00
\$0.00	\$42.00	\$22.00		\$291.00	\$302.00	\$40.00	\$75.00
\$0.00	\$52.00	\$26.00	\$22.00	\$170.00	\$297.00	\$40.00	\$100.00
\$57.00	\$46.00	\$16.00		\$472.00	\$416.00	\$40.00	\$100.00
\$49.00	\$24.00	\$24.00	\$43.00	\$192.00	\$284.00	\$40.00	\$100.00
\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$40.00	\$0.00
\$50.00	\$50.00	\$25.00		\$357.00	\$319.00	\$40.00	\$100.00
\$31.00	\$63.00	\$51.00		\$36.00	\$329.00	\$40.00	\$100.00
\$0.00	\$30.00	\$37.00		\$184.00	\$184.00	\$40.00	\$100.00
\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$134.00	\$142.00	\$40.00	\$100.00
\$187.00	\$329.00	\$243.00	\$99.00	\$2,084.00	\$2,546.00	\$400.00	\$875.00

2023 AAA Fundraiser Report – completed by Sharon Fox.

AAA Fundraiser Barbeque

August 29, 2023

Income:

Ticket Sales	\$	2,940.00
Donations		500.00
Raffle Tickets		125.00
Auction Tickets		808.00
Total Income	\$	<u>4,373.00</u>

Expenses		
Sandra-cooking	\$	100.00
Charles-cleaning		100.00
Bridge Home Rental		175.00
Food Reimbursement		200.00
Christian-MC		100.00
Gift Card		25.00
Let's Make a Deal prize		50.00
Let's Make a Deal prize		<u>50.00</u>
Total Expenses		<u>800.00</u>

Net Income \$ 3,573.00

Non Monetary Donations:

Food, utensils,soda,water etc.	\$	1,317.40
Tablet		141.20
Television		173.79
Total Donations	<u>\$</u>	<u>1,632.39</u>

Marcis Demos stated The AAA Committee donated almost all of the non-monetary donations. All auction donations were/are greatly appreciated.

Treasurer's Report – completed by Raye Liverpool.

Quarterly Treasurer's Report

July 1 thru September 30, 2023

Checking Account		
Opening Balance:	\$	12,435.20
Deposits		<u>5,440.00</u>
Total	\$	17,875.20
Checks/Fees Paid		<u>1,044.13</u>
Closing Balance:	\$	<u>16,831.07</u>
Net Increase	<u>\$</u>	<u>4,395.87</u>

Checks/Fees Paid:

Web.com	30.00	Web Fees
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Marcia Demos		96.00	Longest Day Collation
ABA		90.00	Longest Day Donations
ABA		14.00	Longest Day Processing Fee
Beverly Session-Kelly		78.13	MBU Game Collation
Dorene Christmas		50.00	MBU Game Collation
Brianna Thompsonn		500.00	MBU Scholarship
Chase		4.00	Stop Payment
ABA		11.00	7/21/23 Game Sanction
ABA		50.00	ABA Summer Raffle
ABA		96.00	Replace Ck 1040 12/9/22
ABA ECF		25.00	Brooklynites Alzheimers Donation

\$ 1,044.13

Submitted by:
Raye Liverpool, Treasurer

Consumer Report – Submitted by Rita Thompson

I hope you enjoyed the October issue of *The Consumer*. If you did not receive it, please ensure I have your current email address. If you don't have email, your club can provide a printed copy.

Beginning January 2024, *The Consumer* will be published semi-annually (two issues per year) rather than quarterly (four issues). The deadline for submissions for the January issue is December 10.

I am looking for a volunteer to assist with the website (www.mbuinc.org). Bridge game results are posted to the website daily. If you would like to volunteer to post game results, please contact me at 917.887.5200 or RitaThompsonCLM@gmail.com.

Scholarship – Valerie Brooks reported one scholarship awarded to Brianna Thompson, attending Ohio State and studying to be an orthodontist. Valerie thanked her committee for their hard work and dedication.

2023 AAA – No report.

Point Coordinator Report – Lois Wright reported ABA will only post City Points when the club is up to date on their Table Tax.

Sectional Representative Report - Presented by Lynda Straker

- ES membership will soon receive a survey concerning why the 5:30 PM BBO game attendance is declining.
- ES membership was sent an email asking for comments concerning the ABA Handbook club game requirements. Many clubs cannot meet the minimum requirements. Members are encouraged to submit their ideas for how the Handbook may be restructured in that area.
- 2024 Sanctions are due.

Education – No report.

Property – Presented by John Demos for Charles Guest

The MBU has: 56 bridgemates, 3 servers, 10 boxes of boards in good condition, 5 sets of table markers and a plethora of convention cards/pick-up slips.

Constitution – No report.

Website/Facebook – No report.

Outreach – No report.

Unfinished Business –None.

New Business –

Marcia Demos asked for club status reports:

- Bayview – OK
- Brooklynites – OK. Pat Binyard suggested drivers to Brooklynites' games should try to bring nondrivers with them.
- Cosmo – OK
- Leisure = Building up membership. Will reopen soon
- Springfield – We miss Marion Mercer. Marion thanked everyone for their prayers and concern. 11/9 Springfield will be closed. 11/30- will reopen.
- Westbury – Problems with recruiting.
- Triangle = Please register for lunch on the link in the flyers if you are attending the 11/1 game.

Marcia Demos mentioned suggested minimum director fees:

Club Game - \$30

Sanction Game - \$60

ANNOUNCEMENTS- None.

Meeting adjourned at 12:06 PM. Respectfully submitted by Janice McBean, MBU Secretary.